May 19, 1983 LB 259

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I would raise at this time a question of germaneness of Senator DeCamp's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Oh, excuse me. Is there any discussion on the point that has been made as to germaneness? If there is no discussion, the Chair rules that the amendment is germane, subject to challenge. The next speaker that I have on the measure is Senator Howard Peterson. Senator VonMinden, do you wish to speak on the matter?

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, all you senators that represent small towns, I want to caution you on this a little bit. A year ago we raised the license fees for pinballs and different machines enough then that several of my people, my small towns complained that they didn't have enough money coming in then to offset the license fees, and if you are going to add this to it, although five percent doesn't sound like much in the very small towns with just a few people around you are going to eliminate these machines entirely and you are going to take some of the enjoyment away from some of the people. I think we should leave well enough alone and oppose this amendment of Johnny DeCamp's.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kilgarin. Senator Kilgarin. Is there further discussion on the DeCamp amendment? Senator Landis. Senator Landis is recognized the second time.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, it seems to me that the one situation is bingo and lottery, bingo and pickle cards, this is not a gambling question. It is a game as I understand it of pure chance and amusement but without monetary reward, and the germaneness rule applies to those subjects which are of the same nature and carry it to its logical conclusion, and that while one machine is used for gambling and another machine is used for amusement and in that sense there is a similarity, I would be inclined to say that the intent is all the difference in the world, that the situation for amusement is not one that requires a constitutional amendment for authorization as gambling does, that has specific criminal sanctions to it as gambling does. All of the policy questions on bingo, pickle cards and gambling which are in essence the basic issues in 259 are not the same issues that are involved in amusements. For that reason, I don't think the amendment is germane.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kilgarin, are you here yet? Senator DeCamp, do you wish to close? We have ruled on germaneness.